

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

VOLUME XXI

ASHLAND, O., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1899

No. 7

A Church College

Every institution which is now organized for the advancement of mankind, for the cultivation of his better self, for the development of his powers, for the increase of his usefulness, is able to build not only upon the experience of the past, but upon the success and achievements of the present. We inherit the result of ages of thought and effort. What we should do and how we should do it are questions which in many important fields are no longer untried, no longer experimental, no longer left in doubt, no longer conjectural. We have only to look around us and find out the universal testimony of experience. We have only to look over the ground which has been covered, to read the successes and failures, to see how and where mistakes were made and how remedied, how difficulties were met, how obstacles were overcome, what old methods have been abandoned and what new methods have been adopted.

Now let us apply this plain reasoning to the subject of church education. We find that from the very beginning education has been the handmaiden of religion. We find that all the reformations have either started from great institutions of learning, or led to them. We find that the ripest experience of all denominations is that strong educational institutions

are as necessary to the work, the welfare, the perpetuity of the church, as all other agencies put together, saving the Bible alone. We witness the astonishing spectacle of an ultra conservative body like the German Baptists, who for generations discredited higher education with an earnestness which amounted to intense prejudice, now outstripping all others, and be it said to our shame outstripping us, leaving us far behind, in this essential matter of church education. Are there no lessons to be learned from the unanimous testimony of all the churches and all the denominations and all the ages on this important subject? There is just this lesson for the Brethren church to learn, that we must either strongly establish our church educational work, or make up our minds to be a cipher among the churches, to be a factor of no weight and an element of no consequence in the work of the world. Which shall it be?

We ask the question in great seriousness. We ask it of our leading men, our pastors, our strong laymen. Are we to be nothing or something in the world? Are we to seize the great opportunities of the future, or let them go by? Are we to become a numerous and strong people, spreading over these great states, multiplying our congregations and conferences, are we to venture over the borders of these narrow confines and carry the gospel with its blessed ministries of love and truth which makes men free, to other lands, into the highways of other nations, the avenues of the world's commerce, and into the central scene of heathen darkness, or shall we recede from our vantage ground of truth, relinquish our claim as a wide awake, progressive people, repudiate our responsibility and dwindle along in the old time ruts like the Old Orders and other nobodies? Are we to look on unconcerned at the spec-

tacle of our bright young men going to the colleges of other denominations, under influences alien to that of our church, in order to get that education which they must have, and which we can not or will not give them? Do we properly estimate how much this lack of enterprise and apparent lack of concern on our part will unfavorably impress the minds of our young people? If we have considered these questions as they should be, why have we let six months pass by without raising every dollar of that proposed

THESE THREE.

Endow the College.—He who builds in the hearts and minds of our rising youth, builds in a large way upon the rock of ages.

Endow the Publishing House.—It is the preacher and teacher which enters all homes. It is the finger board of the primitive gospel. Make it strong for its great work.

Endow Missions.—It is the lighting of God's candle in the dark places of earth, and in the desolate places of many a soul.

When you write your pledge for these three great objects, imagine that you are standing in eternity, where you will shortly be, and from that point of view, write.

endowment? Brethren, what shall we do, and when shall we do it? How long shall we halt between two opinions, or what is worse between the resolution and the accomplishment? How long will we refuse to see that the very life of the church, its strength, its influence, its growth, its whole future rests upon the development of her educational work? It is a cry for rescue, for self preservation. Up, and be doing, all true sons and daughters of the church.

Nearly every paper records some princely gift, ranging from thousands to millions, to educational and other philanthropic enterprises. We sometimes wonder who is going to be the first great philanthropist of the Brethren church. The opportunity goes begging.